

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of operating an electrographic printing machine, comprising the steps of:

installing one of a plurality of toning stations into the printing machine, each of the plurality of toning stations associated with a toner type, and having an
5 indicator corresponding to the toner type;

sensing the indicator of the installed one of the plurality of toning stations to determine the toner type of the installed one of the plurality of toning stations;

responsive to the sensing step determining that the installed one of the plurality of toning stations corresponds to toner of a first type, selecting a set of process
10 setpoints associated with the toner of the first type; and

operating the printing machine to electrographically print images using the selected set of process setpoints and the installed one of the toning stations.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator comprises a resistor of a selected value;

and wherein the sensing step comprises:

applying an electrical input to the indicator;

5 measuring an electrical signal from the indicator responsive to the applying step; and

determining the toner type by comparing the measured electrical signal to preselected values.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first toner type corresponds to Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) toner.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the selecting step comprises selecting a set of process setpoints adapted for electrographic printing with MICR toner.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
after the selecting step, executing a startup exercise cycle for the printing machine.
6. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
responsive to the sensing step determining that the installed one of the plurality of toning stations corresponds to toner of the first type, enabling at least one security function of the printing machine.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one security function comprises:
receiving an operator identifier indicative of an authority level associated with the operator; and
responsive to the received operator identifier indicating an authority level
5 above a threshold, enabling the step of operating the printing machine to electrographically print images.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the enabling step comprises enabling access to at least one MICR font.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the enabling step comprises enabling access to at least one secure file.

10. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

responsive to the received operator identifier indicating an authority level below the threshold, disabling the step of operating the printing machine to electrographically print images.

11. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

responsive to the sensing step determining that the installed one of the plurality of toning stations corresponds to toner of the first type, disabling at least one printing function of the printing machine.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the disabled at least one printing function comprises automatic reprinting.

13. The method of claim 3, wherein a second toner type corresponds to a normal printing toner;

and further comprising:

5 responsive to the sensing step determining that the installed one of the plurality of toning stations corresponds to toner of the second toner type, selecting a set of process setpoints adapted for electrographic printing with the normal printing toner.

14. An electrographic printing machine, comprising:

a photoconductor;

a primary charging station for charging a surface of the photoconductor;

5 an exposure station for exposing selected pixel locations of the surface of the photoconductor;

a transfer station for transferring toner from the surface of the photoconductor to a medium;

at least one motor for advancing locations of the surface of the photoconductor among the primary charging station, exposure station, developing station, and transfer station; and

a plurality of toning stations for applying toner to the exposed selected pixel locations of the surface of the photoconductor, each of the plurality of toning stations associated with toner of a specific type, and each of the plurality of toning stations having an indicator indicating the associated toner type for the toning station;

and

logic and control circuitry, for sensing the indicator of an installed one of the plurality of toning stations to determine the toner type of the installed toning station, and for controlling the operation of the printing machine responsive to the determined toner type.

15. The printing machine of claim 14, wherein one of the plurality of toning stations is associated with Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) toner.

16. The printing machine of claim 15, wherein the logic and control circuitry is also for selecting a set of process setpoints adapted for use with MICR toner responsive to determining that the toner type of the installed toning station is MICR toner, and controls the operation of the printing machine responsive to the selected set of process setpoints.

17. The printing machine of claim 15, wherein the logic and control circuitry is also for enabling at least one security function responsive to determining that the toner type of the installed toning station is MICR toner.

18. The printing machine of claim 17, wherein the logic and control circuitry enables at least one security function by enabling access to a MICR font responsive to receiving an operator identifier of a suitable authority level.

19. The printing machine of claim 17, wherein the logic and control circuitry is for preventing automatic reprints responsive to determining that the toner type of the installed toning station is MICR toner.

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